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The Star and the Satellite

Journeying wise men saw a Star. Excited mod-erns anxiously scan the same skies for satel-lites. The star and the satellite suggest many things which the two ages have in common.

The Bethlehem Story brought glad tidings to the poor; yet the poor remain unfed. There are more people hungry today than at the beginning of our century. Only 9% of the world's popula-tion enjoys our high dietary standard. America produces 10,000 calories of potential food per person daily although the human body requires only 3,000 for adequate maintenance. Surplus foods embarrass the favored lands but there is little real attempt to assurage the world's hun-ger. Less than 7% of the world's food produc-tion is moved in international commerce.

There are more than the Mother and Babe who find no room in the inn. Not only the refugees along the Gaza Strip or in Hongkong are home-less, but in crowded cities families seek dwellings and shelter. Thousands could use a stable and more than half the people now living will never know anything but dirt floors in simple huts.

On our eroded hillsides fewer shepherds graze their flocks; and those who do draw ever closer to town and city where industrialization and urban interest increasingly dull the ancient delight of field and farm. Fewer men till the soil and the need of a man to stand resolutely under his own tree is lost amid the softness of modern living.

The flight into Egypt has its counterpart, too. The exodus from China's mainland, the trickle of escapees from Siberian slave camps --these are today's wanderers. What irony that we should classify the freedom-seekers from Hungary as "parolees" rather than as regu-lar immigrants!

But basic problems do not stop with the dis-possessed. Tens of thousands are ill-clad and without the tools and resources that make for normal living. Despite our increased technology and production, less goods are available per person than fifty years ago. It is hard for an American to conceive of this. Meanwhile the imbalance between peoples increases. For in-stance, the gross national product of the Unit-ed States is roughly one hundred times that of India. Yet we have just rebuffed India again concerning loans that would bolster her sagging economy and preserve her from a vociferous Com-munist minority.

Herod's warriors still slaughter the help-less; that the names and faces have changed does not protect the innocent. Buchenwald... Budapest...Algeria--will the list ever end? Still sentries patrol the borders of the na-tions and the heavy tread of soldiers echoes in silent and darkened streets. Mankind, ac-knowledging Mars, is armed to the teeth. Even the grim realization that modern war is a two-edged sword cutting victor and vanquished alike does not deter us.

Meanwhile, the United States watches the So-viets with distrust and fear. Over there the hopes of the masses are offset by the brutality and secrecy of a ruling elite maintaining it-self by force and terror.

How should Christians feel about the Red threat? Actually, in intent is Russia alto-gether different from Rome? The early Chris-tians neither capitulated to Rome nor did they assail her. They knew that God would shuck off the husks of Empire while, along Roman roads, the kernel of the Gospel spread from Ireland to India.

Can there be peace? In our time? Not so long as the great powers accelerate the greatest armaments race in history. Not while their mil-itary policy pulls the smaller nations toward the brink of bankruptcy. Not while they contam-inate the very air men breathe with ashes of death. Not so long as preparations for war dis-sipate the earth's dwindling resources. Not so long as disarmament negotiations are subtly used by every nation as opportunity to outwit oppo-nents. Not so long as newsman and diplomat stir the cauldrons of fear and hate. "Do men gather figs from thistles?" Should these things breed peace under a God of justice and righteousness?

Yet, who would say this is the whole story? Behind the bluster and vanity of power, there are millions of humble hearts who yearn for peace, and daily thousands of kindly deeds go unnoticed among the shrill headlines. Thus, peace, though unlikely, is not impossible.

Nor is the Nativity the full account. Be-yond the Babe looms the Man, the Prince of Peace. Strong is His Name; mighty is His Love; and great His power to save.

(continued on page 4, column 2)

He Shall Speak Peace Unto the Nations

We at the Board of World Peace greet our friends this Christmas season and rejoice with them in the task we share--to relate to our day the promise and declaration, "Peace on earth, good will to men."

DOROTHEA E. BETWAY CHARLES F. BOSS
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MARGUERITE SANDER CARL SOULE * *
DANIEL TAYLOR HERMAN WILL

SONNET FOR THE FIRST CHRISTMAS OF AN ATOMIC AGE

On all the earth two nations now remain,
The Kingdom of This World, and of the Lord.
The one, content no longer with the sword
That takes but one life, now with murderous rain
Blankets whole towns with ruin, death, and pain.
The other is not seen, not yet outpoured
In visible might, yet here and now adored
By those whose hearts are bound by love's bright chain.

And you must choose. You are no longer free
To dally with them both. The time's too late.
Our cities all must share in Sodom's fate,
And where's the ark to ride a brimstone sea,
Except a Manger?--what, except the blood
Of Christ can quench the fire of this last flood?

-- Kenneth Boulding

CONCERNING CONFERENCES AND CONFERENCE CONCERNS

From the Central New York Conference: "The Board of World Peace has directed me to write you expressing our deep concern that so little seems to have been done of late to alert the people of our Church about the dangers of our crreping military establishment...Although the work that is being done through the activities of the United Nations is vastly important and positive, there is the feeling that far too little is being accomplished to point out to our people the ever involving scourge of militarism in the forms of peace-time conscription practices and military training."

North Iowa and Iowa-Des Moines, please note: "By reading the Methodist Peace Courier and The Methodist Story...I think I have pretty well grasped your methods of informing your people on the local level. Of course it would be difficult to measure in any way the actual effects of your efforts to interest people in national legislation. By interviewing several men in senators' offices, I discovered that 'many Methodist groups visit Senator Hickenlooper of Iowa.' Someone must be doing a good piece of work in keeping up interest in Iowa!" (from a letter from a university student in Washington)

A BOOK FOR CHRISTMAS?

WE RECOMMEND:

Revolution on East River by James Avery Joyce deals with major issues in terms of their solution through the UN: disarmament, world economic development, military alliances, and the role of neutral nations. The author is a British Methodist lay preacher who has been attending world meetings since the disarmament conference of 1932. His basic belief, expressed in the subtitle, "The Twilight of National Sovereignty," is that the spiritual unity of mankind and the dangers of atomic war require a world organization of sufficient strength to insure peace and justice. (Abelard-Schuman, $3.50, 1956) CDS

Radiation: What It Is and How It Affects You by Jack Schubert, biochemist, and Ralph E. Lapp, atomic physicist. A strange recommendation for a holiday gift, but at least the book is personalized; each contains an individual radiation diary! It covers the whole field of radiation from side-effects of medical X-rays and fluoroscopy through problems arising from waste deposits of atomic reactors, to radioactive fallout from bomb tests. (Viking, $3.95, 1957) DE

Christians in the Arena by Allan Hunter, minister of the Mount Hollywood Congregational Church of Los Angeles, tells of eight Christians who are witnessing boldly and faithfully to the power of Christian love in action. Among them are Heinrich Grueber, Kathleen Lonsdale, Martin Niemöller, and Philippe Vernier. Biographic material is combined with clear statements of their Christian faith and commitment to nonviolence. Excellent for sermon illustrations, devotional talks, and worship services. (Fellowship Publications, Nyack, N.Y. $1.50, 1957) --available from publisher only in 1957. HW

And for the younger set, these books for world understanding recommended by a children's librarian:

Search for a Golden Bird by Jean Bothwell. Stor of a boy in present-day India with a clear and interesting background of political problems in a rapidly changing country. Grades 4-6. (Harcourt, $2.95, 1956)

Toto's Triumph by Claire Bishop. A poignant story with a happy ending of a French family without a home during the terrible winter following the war. Grades 5-7 (Viking, $2.50, 1957)

Wan Fu by Alice Huggins. Appealing story of a crippled Chinese beggar girl and her transformation in body and spirit at a Christian hospital. Grades 5-7 (Longmans, $2.75, 1957)

CHALLENGE BOOKS, a new series of human geography books published by Coward-McCann, $1.95, combining the accuracy of first-hand reporting and the suspense of high adventure.

UN on MBS

Since October 28, the Mutual Broadcasting System has cooperated with United Nations Radio in broadcasting coast-to-coast the "United Nations Radio Review" regularly Monday through Friday, 9:05 to 9:15 PM, EST. This is the second year that Mutual has carried this award-winning series which presents highlights of the day's events direct from UN headquarters, significant excerpts from statements in General Assembly meetings, and comments by world statesmen.

Is your local Mutual station carrying the series? Find out whether you can assist in promotion. Interest others in the broadcasts; help in general publicity through club and service publications. In other words, s p r e a d the word!

"SOCIAL" ACTION

December is a good time to call, individually or in groups, on your Senators and Representative before they return to Washington for the opening of Congress in January. Let them know of your interest in legislation coming up: immigration, disarmament, economic aid, trade and tariffs. Letters later on will be more effective if your legislators know you.

OPEN HEARTS AND CLOSED DOORS

The first thirty years of this century saw the beginning of the refugee problem as more than 10,000,000 persons were uprooted from their homes. With the coming of Hitler the number grew rapidly, then accelerated enormously through the war and postwar periods. During the last twenty-five years, about 135,000,000 more persons were made homeless. About 16,500,000 are still not settled.

The magnitude of the problem is staggering, the amount of human suffering beyond comprehension. Churches, voluntary agencies, governments, and the UN have striven to meet the need with resources that never were adequate. In this country, special legislation was passed to enable thousands to come who could not have been admitted under our immigration laws.

This special legislation has expired while millions still remain homeless. Will we face frankly the need for drastic revision of our immigration laws and act with genuine concern for the welfare of others? Or will we smugly hold the door ajar with only a crack for a few fortunate ones to slip through?

The National Origins Quota System was written into law in 1924 when many Americans regarded Greeks, Italians, Hungarians, Poles, and other people from southern and eastern Europe as inferior. A country's quota is based on the proportion of that nationality in our 1920 population. Under this system, about 80% of the places are alloted to countries of northern and western Europe, many of which do not use them fully. From 1930 to 1949 they used only about 30,000 places each year, with the total immigration amounting to 45,000 annually instead of the 154,000 limit. Meanwhile, there were long waiting lists in several countries with low quotas.

The McCarron-Walter Act of 1952 continued the National Origins Quota System, and kept the base year as 1920 instead of using 1950 census figures. It eliminated the ban on Japanese and other Asian immigration, but contrived a new device for discrimination, the "Asia-Pacific triangle," which disregards citizenship and discriminates on the basis of racial and national ancestry.

The 1952 law removed protection previously afforded to alien residents, making them subject to deportation at any time, even for minor defects in their original entry. It accords an inferior status to naturalized citizens and makes possible the revocation of citizenship for acts which bring no penalty to native-born citizens. It presents embarrassing and annoying obstacles to the entry of temporary visitors--scholars, business men, scientists, artists, etc.

Legislation in 1957 improved the situation but did not change the basic inequities. Provisions were adopted to take care of hardship cases involving families especially, to remove the 50% mortgages on future quotas imposed when displaced persons were admitted, to permit the Secretary of State and Attorney-General to waive finger-printing requirements for alien visitors, and to permit the 18,656 unused visas remaining from the Refugee Relief Act of 1953 to be used for German expellees, Dutch immigrants, and refugee escapees from Communist areas or from the Middle East.

To bring our immigration laws more into line with Christian teaching and democratic practice we should:

.Establish an annual overall quota of 1/6 of 1% of the population at the last census--about 251,000 on the basis of 1950 figures.

.Admit immigrants on the basis of need without regard to national origin. Priorities might be established for uniting families; asylum for the persecuted; haven for refugees and displaced persons; and persons with needed skills.

.Eliminate unfair distinctions between naturalized and native-born citizens.

.Limit the use of deportation as punishment.

.Modify overly harsh restrictions on admission and provide appeal machinery for those denied admission by officials abroad.

.Approve entry on a permanent basis for the 26,000 Hungarians who are in this country on a temporary parole basis.

A change in policy will only come about through pressure of public opinion. Churchmen can help to create and clarify that opinion.

--H.W., Jr.

AFFAIRS AFAR

Voices to America

LITTLE ROCK - Some 3,000 letters from almost every country outside the Iron Curtain have been received by the nine Negro students in Central High School. They have been unanimous in support of the youngsters and sympathetic to their efforts. West Germany, Sweden and New Zealand sent the most letters.

"I was a Stranger..."

FRANCE - Eighteen years after the end of the Civil War, there are still 160,000 Spanish Republican refugees living in southern France. Most of this number, of whom at least 90% are strong anti-Communists, eke out a living as farm laborers, factory workers, woodcutters, etc. There are many old, blind, abandoned people, who must depend on the kindness of friends almost as needy as themselves.

STOCKHOLM - Sweden has accepted 9,000 refugees in the past two years and is regularly feeding 200,000 needy in Hungary. Swedish relief in Hungary and Austria for all purposes now totals 12 million kronor (about $2,400,000).

The Capital Gap Widens

WASHINGTON - The gap in living standards between the industrialized and the under-developed nations is widening, not narrowing. Most of the recent economic changes have worked against the under-developed lands, they reported to the annual meeting of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development. The enormous pace of capital investment in the West has left few funds for investment in the poorer areas; the tight money policies of the major industrial countries, through curbing demand, have driven down prices of raw materials exported from under-developed countries, while prices of machinery and finished goods have risen sharply. Speakers from such countries as Turkey, Pakistan and Ecuador stressed that their development problems were "far more difficult and complex than is...fully appreciated."

TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

The annual Churchmen's Washington Seminar, sponsored by the National Council of Churches, will be held February 4 to 7, 1958. Information on the seminar has been sent to most of the chairmen of conference boards of world peace in the eastern states. Interested ministers, laymen, women, and youth may attend.

This well planned seminar provides opportunity for churchmen to see at first hand the processes of government in the formation and execution of policy. Presentations by informed officials, newspapermen, and church leaders are coupled with visits to government agencies and interviews with senators and representatives. The Methodist quota is limited so those interested should apply at once to Herman Will at the Chicago office.

A CALL TO SANITY

"The central problem of our time--as I view it--is how to employ human intelligence for the salvation of mankind...we have defiled our intellect by the creation of such scientific instruments of destruction that we are now in desperate danger of destroying ourselves...

Missiles will bring anti-missiles, and anti-missiles will bring anti-anti-missiles. But inevitably, this whole electronics house of cards will reach a point where it can be constructed no higher...

If we will only come to the realization that it must be worked out--whatever it may mean even to such sacred traditions as absolute national sovereignty--I believe that we can somehow, somewhere, and perhaps through some as yet undiscovered world thinker and leader find a workable solution...

When are we going to muster an intelligence equal to that applied against the Sputnik and dedicate it to the preservation of this Satellite on which we live?

How long--I would ask you--can we put off salvation?

When does humanity run out?

If we're going to save ourselves from the instruments of our own intellect, we had better soon get ourselves under control and begin making the world safe for living."

(from an address by General of the Army Omar N. Bradley on November 5, 1957)

RECOMMENDED PAMPHLETS ON IMMIGRATION

Paths to the New World: American Immigration--Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow by Edward Corsi. Anti-Defamation League, 1956, 35 cents.

The Stranger at our Gate by Hubert H. Humphrey. Public Affairs Pamphlet No. 202, 25 cents.

As We Do unto Others by Charles H. Seaver. National Council of Churches, 30 cents.

I Lift My Lamp. Woman's Divison of Christian Service, 20 cents.

The Star and the Satellite

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For the saving and reconciling element in the whole situation is God--God and His mercy. God with us: Emmanuel. The Sputnicks may spin; missiles may streak through the skies; but there is still a Star over our times!

God may be revealing his salvation in our age more clearly than we sense. Perhaps there is His Peace. Well that it is so, for there is no peace in us.

--D.E.T.